



## Somaliland Mission, USA

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December 23, 2022

The Honorable Jim Risch  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Risch:

On behalf of the Government of Somaliland, I am writing to express our sincere thanks for your continued leadership in support of Somaliland and the pursuit of our mutual objectives in the U.S. Senate. We are thankful for your continued efforts to introduce legislation encouraging increased partnership between the U.S. and Somaliland, most notably the Somaliland Partnership Act, which was the basis for the historic language referencing Somaliland in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023 recently signed into law.

We are incredibly grateful for your acknowledgement of the opportunities presented by greater U.S. engagement with Somaliland on matters of mutual interest, including advancing democracy, enhancing trade and investment in the Horn of Africa, and countering terrorism, piracy, and trafficking in the region. The introduction of the Somaliland Partnership Act sparked serious conversations in Congress about the opportunities that greater, direct engagement with a fellow democracy in the Horn of Africa could provide, while also shining light on the challenges Somaliland faces as an unrecognized nation in a tumultuous, but important region.

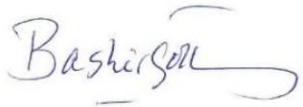
This legislation and your proposed amendment to include the Somaliland Partnership Act in the Senate NDAA served as the foundation for ongoing discussions with both Congress and the Biden Administration about advancing the verbal commitments made during President Bihi's visit to explore greater engagement between the U.S. and Somaliland. It was also the basis for similar proposals in the House of Representatives, which resulted in the first reference to Somaliland codified in U.S. law since we reasserted our independence in 1991. Your prioritization of the U.S.-Somaliland partnership during this process for the second year in a row is an honor and great source of pride for the people of Somaliland.

Looking ahead, my government remains optimistic about the prospects for greater cooperation between the U.S. and Somaliland as we continue to navigate our shared objectives, both in the Horn of Africa and beyond. The exploration of current engagement and opportunities for future engagement required by the NDAA represents a monumental first step in what we hope will become a long and fruitful partnership between our two governments. I look forward to supporting you and your Senate colleagues on the reintroduction of the Somaliland Partnership Act and to engaging with the appropriate individuals in the House of Representatives to advance opportunities for U.S.-Somaliland collaboration.

As a leading voice on matters of relevance to Africa and a friend of Somaliland, our government and people are grateful for your continued support. Your continued advocacy for Somaliland and engagement on the wide range of issues that impact our country in both your public comments and private engagements with other Members of Congress and the Biden Administration is deeply appreciated. I look forward to welcoming you to Somaliland at your earliest convenience and to our continued collaboration in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and beyond.

Thank you very much again.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bashir Goth", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bashir Goth,  
Somaliland Representative to the USA

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